

Remarks

A final Office Action was mailed on February 17, 2009, which rejected all pending claims 30-49. The Applicant has hereinabove amended claims 30 and 37, and cancelled claims 31 and 38. The amended claims each now generally feature a damping material support structure having “*a cantilever projection*” to which the Examiner has indicated is allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Support for the amendments include previously presented claims 31 and 38 as well as FIG. 2.

These amendments are believed to be proper, do not introduce new matter or serve to narrow the scope of the claimed subject matter, are merely clarifying in nature and not provided for reasons substantially related to patentability over the art of record, and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 30, 32-34, 36, 37, 39-41, and 43 have been under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi '618 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,155,220 by Kahn et al. (“Kahn '220”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 30 and 37 have each been amended to generally feature the limitations of previously presented claims 31 and 38. As such, the Applicant believes that the current amendments place claims 30 and 37 in proper condition for allowance due to the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject mater of claims 31 and 38. See final office action, page 3, lines 17-24.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 30 and 37, as well as claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested for these reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of dependent claims 31, 35, 38, 42, and 45-49 as well as independent claim 44. For the reasons set forth above, it is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application. This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2009. Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorneys listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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